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DEPT FOR AF/S STEVE HILL, DRL/MLGA JULIETA NOYES, IO/RHS DOUG ROHN

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: <u>PREL PHUM LH</u>

SUBJECT: LITHUANIA ON ZIMBABWE

REF: A. SECSTATE 34009

¶B. SECSTATE 33357

We delivered reftel points to Irena Vedrickaite, Head of the MFA's Africa and Middle East Division, and Jurga Kasputiene, First Secretary of the MFA's Human Rights and NGO Division, on March 19. Vedrickaite agreed that the international community's public statements condemning recent actions by the government in Zimbabwe are useful. She said, however, that the GOL had no observers of its own in Zimbabwe and she "could not imagine" the GOL making its own statement. When pressed, she added that as an EU member state, Lithuania was a party to the EU's statements, but that she would raise the issue with her colleagues at MFA. Kasputiene said that she thought it was unlikely the UNHRC would raise the issue of Zimbabwe because the current session is focused on administrative procedures. She added, however, that the United Kingdom is the country most likely to introduce a Zimbabwe resolution and, if such a resolution were raised, the GOL would support it. CLOUD